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ABSTRACT

This digest provides a variety of sources for vocational education curricula, lesson plans, and other instructional materials. The section on networking includes listservs and World Wide Web sites that lead to curriculum resources and other valuable information. Access points to the ERIC database are listed, as are instructional materials labs and consortia that produce and often offer their products for sale to the general public. Names, addresses, telephone numbers, World Wide Web sites, and descriptions are provided for eight organizations: Vocational Instructional Materials Lab, Center on Education and Training for Employment, The Ohio State University; Instructional Materials Laboratory, University of Missouri-Columbia; American Association for Vocational Instructional Materials, Winterville, Georgia; Curriculum and Instructional Materials Center, Oklahoma Department of Vocational and Technical Education; Center for Occupational Research and Development, Waco, Texas; Curriculum Materials Service (agricultural education), Columbus, Ohio; Vocational-Technical Education Consortium of States; and Curriculum Publications Clearinghouse, Western Illinois University. The National Center for Research in Vocational Education website, a link to State Vocational and Technical Education Curriculum Centers, is listed. Two Curriculum Coordination Centers that still lend materials within their regions are also cited. (YLB)

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ERIC Digest No. 169

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DIGEST NO. 169

ERIC

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS - 1966-1996
Clearinghouse on Adult, Career, and Vocational Education

by Judith O. Wagner

1996

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Locating Vocational Education Curriculum and Instructional Materials

Locating education curriculum materials can be a frustrating and time-consuming job. This *ERIC Digest*, an update of an earlier *Digest* (Wagner 1990), provides a variety of sources for curricula, lesson plans, and other instructional materials. Included are World Wide Web (WWW) sites, listservs, the ERIC database, and agencies that can assist in your quest for vocational education materials.

Networking

Networking is an important aspect of any educational endeavor. Finding out what others in the field are doing can be invaluable in planning programs. The Internet has made the networking process almost effortless. A combination of listservs and websites allows anyone to hop aboard and find a wealth of information and materials

Listservs

Several listservs and the AskERIC question-answering service provide almost immediate answers to questions. Subscribing to a listserv is one way to make contact with others who are doing similar work. A listserv is a network-based discussion group devoted to a single topic. Once you have subscribed to a listserv, you will receive all e-mail messages that are posted and you may post messages as well (Stussman 1995). To subscribe to a listserv, send an e-mail message to *listserv@address*. For example, to subscribe to VOCNET, send a message to: **listserv@cmsa.berkeley.edu**. Leave the subject line blank and, in the body of the message, enter: **subscribe vocnet your firstname lastname**. If you have an automatic signature block, be sure it is turned off. You will receive a confirmation message with information about the management and rules of the listserv. Once you have subscribed, post a message by sending it to: **vocnet@cmsa.berkeley.edu**. Your message will then be posted to all subscribers of the listserv. VOCNET (vocnet@cmsa.berkeley.edu) is maintained by the National Center for Research in Vocational Education (NCRVE). Discussions on VOCNET cover all aspects of vocational and technical education.

Additional listservs include ones for business education (nbea-l @vml.cc.uakron.edu), technology education (technology-edu @ncsu.edu), school-to-work (majordomo@confer.edc.org and majordomo@cccins.cccneb.edu), and training and development (trdev-l@psuvm.psu.edu). Most people who subscribe to these networks are willing to share their expertise.

Another way to receive personalized information is through AskERIC (askeric@ericir.syr.edu), an Internet-based service that provides responses to requests within 48 hours. The response will usually include a brief ERIC search and referrals to other sources—mostly Internet based—of information on the topic. The AskERIC website also includes the AskERIC Virtual Library (AEVL) and access to searching the ERIC database (http://ericir.syr.edu/Eric/). AEVL includes lesson plans, ERIC searches, *ERIC Digests*, and materials from NASA, CNN, and the Discovery/Learning Channel.

WWW

The World Wide Web is a system for finding and accessing Internet resources. The web links objects seamlessly so that users can go directly to particular items in cyberspace—the theoretical boundaries of the Internet (Stussman 1995). The World Wide Web provides a number of sites that lead to curriculum resources and a wealth of other valuable information.

Vocational Education Resources
http://pegasus.cc.ucf.edu/~sorg/vocation.html
This site, located at the University of Central Florida, includes general information, curriculum resources, school-to-work information, legislative information, and career and job information.

Vocational Education in South Dakota
http://www.dsu.edu/departments/educate/vte/
This site was developed primarily for vocational teachers in South Dakota but gets "hits" from all over the world. It provides links to NCRVE, all ERIC components, the U.S. Department of Education, and several electronic journals.

The U.S. Department of Education maintains a web site (http://www.ed.gov) that provides entry to a host of education-related resources including the entire ERIC system, NCRVE, the National Center for Education Statistics, and other departmental projects.

ERIC Database

ERIC is the major database source for vocational and technical education curriculum. It contains a wealth of materials from sources all over the world. The materials are noncommercial and cover all educational levels—elementary through adult. The ERIC database is available on CD-ROM at most university libraries, teacher centers, and state libraries. You can also search ERIC through the AskERIC website (http://ericir.syr.edu/Eric/).

For more information, contact:

ERIC Clearinghouse on Adult, Career, and Vocational Education
1900 Kenny Road
Columbus, OH 43210-1090
800/848-4815; FAX: 614/292-1260
http://www.osu.edu/units/education/cete/ericacve/index.html
e-mail—ericacve@magnus.acs.ohio-state.edu

Instructional Materials Labs and Consortia

Many instructional materials labs and consortia produce vocational and technical education curriculum materials for a single state or group of states. These organizations are often located at universities and most offer their products for sale to the general public.

Vocational Instructional Materials Lab (VIML)
Center on Education and Training for Employment
The Ohio State University
1900 Kenny Road
Columbus, OH 43210-1090
800/848-4815; FAX: 614/292-1260
e-mail—ve-dcatri@ode.ohio.gov

VIML develops business/industry validated materials and assessment products for areas of vocational-technical education. Ohio Competency Assessment Profiles (OCAPS) are criterion-referenced assessments that measure entry-level occupational skills.

Instructional Materials Laboratory
University of Missouri-Columbia
2316 Industrial Drive
Columbia, MO 65202
800/669-2465; FAX: 573/882-1992

Develops competency-based curriculum, lesson plans, and workbooks.

American Association for Vocational Instructional Materials
220 Smithonia Road
Winterville, GA 30683
800/228-4689

Produces manuals, workbooks, software, and videos for many occupational education subjects. It also publishes teacher and administrator education materials.

Curriculum and Instructional Materials Center (CIMC)
Oklahoma Department of Vocational and Technical Education
1500 West Seventh Street
Stillwater, OK 74074-4364
800/654-4502; FAX: 405/743-5154

Center for Occupational Research and Development (CORD)
P.O. Box 21206
Waco, TX 76702-1206
800/972-2766; http://www.cord.org

CORD is a nonprofit organization engaged in curriculum development efforts for contextual learning.

Curriculum Materials Service (CMS)
254 Agricultural Administration Building
2120 Fyffe Road
Columbus, OH 43210-1067
614/292-4848; FAX: 800/292-4919
http://ad254.ag.ohio-state.edu/OCMS/OCMS.html

Provides materials in all aspects of agricultural education.

Vocational-Technical Education Consortium of States (V-TECS)
1866 Southern Lane
Decatur, GA 30033-4097
800/248-7701, ext. 543

V-TECS produces validated, competency-based outcome standards, curriculum materials, and assessment instruments.

Curriculum Publications Clearinghouse (CPC)
Western Illinois University
46 Horrabin Hall
Macomb, IL 61455
800/322-3905; FAX: 309/298-2869
http://ECNet.Net/users/micpc/index.html
e-mail—cpc@wiu.edu

CPC serves as the umbrella organization for NCRVE and V-TECS materials distribution.

Libraries and Resource Centers

Some states maintain vocational education libraries. Some are solely for use of the educators within their state, but others will loan some materials to anyone in the field. A listing of State Vocational and Technical Education Curriculum Centers is located on the NCRVE website (http://vocserve.berkeley.edu/MDS-746/stateCC.html). Contact the center in your state for information about their services.

For example, the New Hampshire Curriculum Materials Library will loan materials directly only to New Hampshire teachers but will serve out-of-state patrons through interlibrary loan.

Curriculum Materials Library
Keene State College
229 Main Street
Keene, NH 03435-3201
603/358-2749; FAX: 603/358-2745
http://wallace.keene.edu/lrc.html
e-mail—jhildebr@keene.edu

Two of the Curriculum Coordination Centers (CCCs) still lend materials within their regions. Check with them directly to learn the full range of their services.

East Central CCC
University of Illinois at Springfield, K-80
Springfield, IL 62794-9243
217/786-6173
http://www.uis.edu/~ivcc/ivcc.html

Western CCC
University of Hawaii Manoa
1776 University Avenue, UA 2-7
Honolulu, HI 96844-0001
http://www2.hawaii.edu/wccc/nncc.html

This *ERIC Digest* is not intended to be a definitive list of sources for vocational and technical education curriculum and instructional materials. There are many other commercial and nonprofit agencies that produce and sell vocational instructional materials. This *Digest* provides a starting point for those with limited resources.

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